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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #0689/68
12 February 1968

Polish-West German Contact in Warsaw

In the first official contact of its kind in Warsaw, the head of the West German trade mission, Boex, met with Deputy Foreign Minister Winiewicz at the latter's office on 30 January. The US Embassy learned of the contact on 8 February from "reliably informed Western diplomatic sources."

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COMMENT: This unprecedented contact appears to throw new light on Winiewicz's subsequent, unannounced trip to Paris, returning to Warsaw on 7 February. Boex may have given the Poles advanced notice of Bonn's reportedly imminent initiative on the Oder-Neisse question, using De Gaulle as an intermediary. Winiewicz, in turn, may have gone to take preliminary soundings in Paris, or indeed to make the Polish position on this issue doubly clear before the German proposal is presented to De Gaulle.

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Although Winiewicz was divested of responsibilities for Western affairs within the ministry last summer, he might retain jurisdiction over the problem of Germany. The above conjunction of events tends to bear out this information.

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25X1

-2-

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Another Polish Play Axed by Censors

The Warsaw premiere of a play described as a protest against all tyranny was cancelled at the last moment reportedly at the party's insistence. The Minister of Culture and Art, Motyka, who personally announced the closure to the theater director, reportedly professed "regrets, but said there was nothing he could do about the decision."

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COMMENT: This decision follows the early closing in Warsaw of the anti-Czarist play Dziady (Forefathers) on 30 January, whose initial performances sparked enthusiastic audience reaction and its closure resulted in student demonstrations. In view of this situation, the party apparently decided to play it safe and shortcircuit a similar reaction to the second play by banning it altogether.

Yugoslavs May Contemplate New Appeal on Vietnam

Tito discussed a new initiative to end the Vietnam war, similar to the 17 nation appeal of April 1965, with his hosts in India and Cambodia, according to the West German charge in Belgrade. The initiative reportedly would be taken at the UN, would include an offer of mediation, and would have a wider sponsorship than the earlier appeal.

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-3-

COMMENT: No new initiatives were planned at the start of Tito's Asian-African trip, in January, but the recent Communist offensive in Vietnam may have led Tito to believe that the time is ripe for exerting more pressure on the US. Plans for such an initiative may be linked to Tito's call on 7 February for a new meeting of all the nonaligned and anti-imperialist nations. The gathering would be open to all nations but the aggressors in Vietnam and the Middle East.

Since the initiative for a preparatory conference of Mediterranean progressive movements apparently has slipped away from the Yugoslavs, they may be attempting to push their ideas of nonalignment and anti-imperialism on the broader stage of a nonaligned conference. If so, the conference, in its appeal to all progressive forces, instead of just communist parties, would be Belgrade's answer to the Budapest meeting of communist parties.

Poles Welcome Danish Premier's Statements

The Polish press on 10 February predictably played up Danish Premier Baunsgaard's 8 February statement that the Oder-Neisse boundary ought to be recognized as a basis for negotiations on European security. The main party daily Trybuna Ludu asserted that this position, together with Baunsgaard's statements on the desirability of examining the status of the GDR and holding a European security conference, show that Danish participation in NATO after 1969 is not certain. The paper added that the loss of US H-bombs over Greenland in large measure led the Danes to take this position.

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COMMENT: The Poles are undoubtedly delighted that their efforts for over a year to cultivate Denmark and other smaller NATO countries appear to be bearing fruit. The Poles will use the Danish statements to reinforce the impression that their ideas about the need for recognition of the status quo and a security conference are increasingly shared by Western European governments. They also probably welcome any hint that ties among the NATO allies are loosening.

Hungarians Claim Sixty Parties to Attend Budapest Consultative Meeting

Frigyes Puja, head of the Hungarian CC department for international relations, claimed that sixty of the

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-4-

seventy-four invited parties have agreed to attend the meeting. Puja's calculations, which appeared in the Sunday edition of the party daily, include the statement that five parties--the Chinese, Albanian, Cuban, Dutch, and left-wing Swedish parties--have declined to send a delegation. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: Puja's figures leave nine parties unaccounted for. Three Asian parties--Burma, Thailand, and Indonesia--reportedly could not be contacted and the Japanese party has refused to attend so there are only five responses still outstanding. Puja's article made no mention of the level of participation of the sixty parties who are to attend.

Dutch Foreign Minister Luns Visits Hungary

Dutch Foreign Minister Joseph Luns arrived in Hungary on 11 February on an official visit. Luns was greeted at Budapest's Ferihegy Airport by Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Peter. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: Luns visit marks the first such move by a Dutch Foreign Minister since the 1956 Revolt. The Hungarians have long pushed for such a visit as an indication of Dutch intention to change its negative attitude toward the Hungarian regime. The Hungarian Foreign Minister cooked up a cultural exchange agreement as the prime reason for their recent invitation.

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